

Part of the WIFE in "AT THE SAME GAME."

Enter with Fred after the first Black out.

.....leave him and come with me.

No, Fred, I could n't do that. Besides, he does love me, but I've lost all my love for him.

.....this one way ticket.

Oh, how absurd, Harry. I shall leave the room. (Rise.)

.....without her consent.

Then you would have me kill myself.

.....Annie, turn your card.

Oh, please, Harry, please. *don't be absurd*

.....Well, I'm waiting.

(Look at Fred-then reach forward and turn card.) The ~~Queen~~ Queen of Hearts.)

.....How appropriate.

Then the ace of spades was never in the pack?

.....want to go with him?

No, I hate him.

.....Annie has no home now.

Harry, what do you mean?

.....get out as soon as possible. Go.

(EXIT WITH FRED.)

Re-enter at.....not a word of what I've told you.

Hello, Dick. (Kiss.) Do you think he suspects?

.....thinks it's young Chalmers.

(Laugh.) He does---Good.

.....let's get away.

(Exit with Dick.)

"AT THE SAME GAME."

A PLAY IN ONE ACT.

Harry.....Husband
Dick.....his friend
Annie.....His wife.
Fred.....The boy
Mary.....The other girl.

Scene: Drawing room.

OP. Chair and table.

Settee.

Prompt.

(Husband discovered on stage seats at table o.p.)

ENTER FRIEND.

Dick: Hallo old man! Why the worried look?

Harry: Oh! nothing Dick just a bit blue.

Dick: That wont do there's more behind this, come on out with it.

Harry: Well it's a short story and I mmy as well tell you, it may ease my mind to tell someone.

Dick: Wait until I light my cigarette (lights cig. and sit chair O.P.
We'll spill the beans, I'm all ears.
and young Chalmers.

Dick: What rot! You're dreaming.

Harry: No I'm not I only wish I were. I've seen it here with my own eyes.

Dick: Well what are you going to do about it?

Harry: If I weren't such a damn coward, I'd show them a bit of real life. (takes revolver from pocket)

Dick: Why, what would you do?

Harry: Simply this. Listen, they're always in this room.

(Black out. DICK & HARRY exit O.P. ANNIE & FRED enter)

(they sit on settee prompt. light when Fred begins to speak)

Fred: It's no use Annie I can't wait any longer, I love you and he doesn't, leave him and come with me. (enter Harry U.S.)

Annie: No Fred. I couldn't do that. Besides he does love me, but I have lost all my love for him.

Fred: Yes but you can't stay here tied to a man you don't even love.

Harry: (stepping down stage) No certainly not.

(Annie & Fred rise)

Harry: Sit down please, I'm glad I found you together it will make it so much easier for all of us.

Fred: Well what are you going to do, shoot me?

Harry: Oh no, nothing so dramatic besides it would spoil the carpet.

Fred: Oh cut out the suspense. What are you going to do?

Harry: Simply this. (picks up table C.P. and places it in front of Annie and Fred) I have here nine cards, among them is the ace of spades, I will deal them one at a time. The one who draws the ace will depart from this vale of fears with the least possible fuss.

Fred: You mean leave the country?

Harry: (taking revolver from pocket) yes, by this one way ticket.

Annie: Oh how absurd Harry, I shall leave the room (rises to go)

Harry: Sit down Annie, you're in this too. No man makes love to another man's wife without this too.

Annie: Then you would have me kill myself?

Harry: Oh, I wouldn't say that - you have the same chances as Chalmers and I. (to Chalmers) shall I deal the cards?

Fred: Yes! Yes! Get on with it - this is getting on my nerves.

(Harry deals cards one at a time, face up on to table - says while dealing)

Harry: Maybe I'll be luckier at cards than I was at love. (deals last three cards face down) You will notice I've dealt the last three cards face down. Chalmers turn your card.

(Fred puts hand out to turn card, draws back)

Fred: I can't.

Harry: Annie turn your card.

Annie: Oh please Harry, please.

Harry: Very well I'll turn mine. (turns card) The Jack of Diamonds, that lets me out. CHALMERS TURN YOUR CARD.

Fred: (reaches for card but draws back) Oh for God's sake let me go.

Harry: (points revolver at him) Shall I put you out of your misery?

Fred: Don't shoot man, don't shoot.

Harry: Don't worry I won't shoot, you're not worth it. There's one way out.

Fred: What is it?

Harry: One of you may take both cards. The one who does, incurs the penalty of the other.

(Annie & Fred look at one another. Fred drops his head on his hands)

Harry: Come on Chalmers, I'm sure m wife has no objection to your t king the cards, and I suppose you have no objection to Annie taking them.

Harry: Well I'm waiting.

(Annie looks at Fred then reaches forward and turns her card)

Annie: The queen of hearts.

Harry: Well fits you to a "T" That lets you out. Come on Chalmers your card and the revolver.

Fred: Let me go man, let me go.

Harry: Turn your card, TURN IT.

(Fred reaches forward turns card)

Fred: The knave of hearts.

Harry: How appropriate.

Annie: Then the ace of spades was never in the pack.

Harry: No. I did this to show you what a CUR YOUR LOVER WAS - Now do you want to go with him?

Annie: NO. I HATE HIM.

Harry: And you Chalmers?

Fred: Oh! - of course if - if Annie doesn't want me I'll - I'll go out of her life for ever.

Harry: Oh no I couldn't do that - you'd better tkae Annie with you. You see Annie has no home now.

(Annie and Fred rise)

Annie: Harry! what do you --

Harry: Go! both of you, get out as soon as possible. Go!

(Annie and Fred exit. mpt)

AT THE SAME GAME...CONTD.

(BLACK OUT. Harry and Dick discovered seated at table.
Lights on. Harry's voice)

Harry: You see that's what I'd like to do if I weren't such a damned coward.

(Annie's voice heard off stage)

Harry: Sh. Here comes Annie now, not a word of what I've told you.

(Harry exits O.P. Annie enters prompt)

Annie: Hallo, Dick (both kiss) Do you think he suspects?

Dick: No - he is a fool and a dreamer, he thinks its young Chalmers.

Annie: (laughing) He does -- good.

Dick: Come on darling let's get away.

(Dick and Annie exit prompt)

(Harry enters O.P.)

Harry: Good, it's worked, I thought for a minute I'd over done it.
(calls off O.P.) Come on Mary, it's O.K)

(Mary enters, throws arm around Harry, they kiss)

C U R T A I N.